

## Grammar Worksheet—13: Lesson XLII

In paragraphs 7 and 9 of this story, you will notice some very short sentences. Each has a subject and a verb and nothing else, but that is enough to make them complete sentences. Short sentences make a story move faster and can be used effectively if not used too often.

All sentences must have at least two words - A subject and a verb.

- The subject tells what the sentence is about. A **simple subject** is a single noun. A **complete subject** includes all the words that describe the noun.
- The verb explains the action. Another name for the verb is the predicate. A **simple predicate** is just the verb and helping verbs. A **complete predicate** includes all the verbs, words, and phrases to describe.
- Some commands have an implied subject of “you”. For example, in the sentence “Stop!”, the implied subject is you and the verb is stop. Though it is written with only one word it still has a subject and could be written as “You stop!”
- Knowing which words belong to the subject and which words belong to the predicate will help you when you are writing long sentences to make sure the sentence is more easily understood.

Example of a simple sentence with a simple subject and a simple predicate.

*They followed.*

The word *They* is the simple subject, *followed* is the simple predicate. We can show how the subject and predicate are divided by putting a diagonal line to separate the two parts like this:

*They / followed*

Now we will look at some longer sentences. The complete subject includes the simple subject and all the words that modify it. The complete predicate includes the verb and all the words which modify the verb. Here is an example:

*The floating white object moved through the air.*

The word *object* is the simple subject. However there are some adjectives to describe the

object. It is a floating object and it is a white object. The entire phrase *the floating white object* is the complete subject.

The word *moved* is the simple predicate in this sentence. The phrase *through the air* tells us where the object was moving. It explains more about the verb. The entire phrase *moved through the air* is the complete predicate.

We can show how the subject and predicate are divided by putting a diagonal line between the two sentence parts.

*The floating white object / moved through the air.*

Practice dividing sentences to show the simple or complete subject and the simple or complete predicate. Place a diagonal line between the subject and predicate. The following sentences can be found in your reading lesson.

*He saw it move.*

*He was frightened.*

*He pursued it a little.*

*The white object moved along.*

*He went with the other man.*

*It moved.*

*They followed.*

*It spread its white arms as before.*

*I will tell you another story.*